

LINDISFARNE PRIORY, NORTHUMBERLAND

Hazard Information for Education Visits

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete a risk assessment prior to the site visit. The following information is intended as an aid and does not replace the group leader's own risk assessment. We recommend coming to the site on a free planning visit, to help you with your risk assessment. Please note: where possible, English Heritage staff at the site will be happy to assist you with your queries, but cannot check or sign any section of your risk assessment.

Environmental conditions at historic sites may change rapidly and you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit. Most accidents are the result of slips and trips so please make sure you wear appropriate footwear and dress sensibly for the site and weather. Please be aware that the site may close at short notice due to adverse weather. Where applicable, stonework and trees at our sites are inspected regularly; however, extreme weather conditions can sometimes affect stonework and trees so as well as following any staff instructions and being mindful of temporary barriers and signage, please remain vigilant at all times. On-going conservation work may pose a temporary hazard; a member of staff will advise you of any works when you visit. Dogs on leashes may be present on site.

All learners who are 16 years or younger must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times whilst on site.

The tidal nature of the causeway to the island may pose potential hazards.

- The tidal times for the causeway can be found here: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lindisfarne-priory/prices-and-opening-times/>, please check your arrival and departure times on the island to ensure a safe crossing along the causeway.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There is a public car and coach park a five-minute walk from the entrance to the priory. There are footpaths through the village but some of the walk is on roads, which can be busy during summer months.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds.

The ruinous nature of the priory presents many potential hazards.

- The main entrance to the priory is accessed through a parish graveyard, via a narrow pathway. Groups should avoid straying onto the graves.
- There is a short flight of steps to the entrance way. An accessible route is available with assistance from site staff.
- The site is mainly grassed with some eroded ground surfaces towards the east end of the priory church, with an exposed rocky surface in these areas.
- There are sections of gravelled and unevenly paved surfaces which can be slippery during or after wet weather.
- Climbing is not permitted on the monument to St Cuthbert.
- Access to the cloister is via a set of wooden steps or a ramp, both of which can be slippery in wet conditions.
- Walls are rough and uneven with sharp stones. There are stretches of low-level masonry.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The perimeter of the site is enclosed by high walls and metal fencing. Fencing along the east side is lower, with metal spikes.
- The exposed nature of the site means that weather can be changeable, often with windy conditions.
- There is no shelter on site.

The museum and exhibition space may pose possible hazards for use by large groups.

- There is one entry and exit point into the main building which may be busy at peak times.

- The museum and exhibition space contain glass display cases and free-standing artefacts. The limited space inside the area allows for small groups of up to 15 to visit with adult supervision. This capacity also applies to the shop
- Please refrain from taking food and drink into the museum.

There are learning resources that can be used by groups on-site, including handling collections.

- The objects in the handling collection may have rough edges, points or protrusions.
- Learners must be supervised at all times by Leaders while using the resources.
- The objects may have been handled by multiple groups; always wash hands after use.

Lindisfarne Priory is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard.
- Students should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is common with older buildings and some historic artefacts and is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas and objects are clearly marked with red 'a' stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.

Covid-19 and flu.

- We follow government and [NHS guidelines](#) to reduce the risk of transmission. Please also follow their guidance and do not visit if you have flu or Covid-19 symptoms or have recently tested positive.